



Nuggets of wisdom

June 2020

As we wrap up what has been a very challenging school year on a number of fronts, I wanted to pass along a number of “nuggets” that numerous administrators have provided me with over the past few months.

Keep Calm and Carry On

If there is something I've been continuously reminded by through my conversations, it's the ability BCPVPA members have to keep their emotions largely in check and stick to the job at hand. At a time when many are struggling with work and their lives under COVID-19 restrictions, administrators just keep showing up! Many administrators I've spoken to have made it a priority to keep their 'emotional temperature' in check. By managing their own emotional regulation, administrators have provided a professional climate for others to seek refuge in, re-focus their efforts and act with greater clarity of intention.

Adaptable and Flexible

During this time of COVID-19, administrators are taking on a host of expanded roles beyond what is typically required of them as leaders, mediators, coaches, colleagues, and compassionate fellow community members. Every school site and administrative function/role has had to adapt to emergent issues specific to their community, student population, district directive, and staff needs. Leading by example and taking the initiative to make things better, BCPVPA members have helped pave the way for in-person student re-engagement. Great situational leadership!

Focused on the problem, not the person

At a time when it might become easy to finger point and resort to divisive behaviour, administrators continue to focus on the problems at hand as opposed to singling out people. As the school year draws to a close and our energy levels are truly stretched, it is so important to direct and re-direct our attention towards problems not people. Numerous administrators have reflected on the importance of dealing with the problem while building up people around them. With so much heightened anxiety, we need to work together to solve problems while creating greater emotional safety to navigate this unprecedented time.

Collectively, you are an amazing group of professional leaders. Hoping you all finish the year well and safe. Take care of one another, take care of yourself. Reach out should you need support.

Be well,

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Jack's column appears in BCPVPA's eNews the first Friday of each month.